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AUG 20 2007

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 17, and 19 - 30 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 17, 19 - 23, 29 and 30 are subject to examination and claims 24 - 28 have been withdrawn from examination. Claims 5 and 18 were previously cancelled. As it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art as previously presented, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication made in item 3 of the above-identified Office Action that claims 1 - 4, 6 - 10, 17, 19 - 23 and 29 are allowable.

In item 2 of the Office Action, claims 11 - 15 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,681,359 to Au et al ("AU").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

More particularly, a claim for priority was made in the instant application, based on German Patent Application 100 37 794.7, filed on August 3, 2000. A certified copy of the German patent application has already been filed and a certified English translation is enclosed, which will perfect

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the claim for priority of the instant application as of **August 3, 2000**. However, the effective filing date of the **AU** reference is **August 7, 2000**, or four days after the priority date of the instant application. Since the effective filing date of the **AU** reference is **August 7, 2000**, which is later than the **August 3, 2000**, effective date of the instant application, **AU** will not be available as prior art against the instant application.

As no other art was cited against the claims of the instant application, it is believed that all claims of the instant application are patentable over the prior art

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 11, 16 and 29. Claims 1, 11, 16 and 29 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 11 and 16.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 4, 6 - 17 and 19 - 30 are solicited.

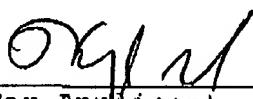
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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August 20, 2007

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